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## REVEREND FUN [WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM](http://WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM)



OK, SO NOTHING HAPPENED ON 06/06/2006, WHICH CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING ... WE'VE GOT LESS THAN 1,000 YEARS TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR 06/06/3006

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## Summertime

It hardly seems possible that only last month we were still celebrating the great fifty days of Easter, does it? Since then, we said goodbye to the Schubert setting of the service music until the next festival, we resumed the custom of kneeling for the eucharistic prayer, and we are not saying "Alleluia" quite so much. It feels almost like a relief to resume the ordinarieness of the long green season.

With the switch to the season after Pentecost, we are now singing the Powell service music, and saying—rather than singing—more of the service. We have also resumed a regular Sunday confession as part of our service each week. (It's not that we don't sin during Eastertide, but simply that we are called to focus on our joy instead.)

Soon, we will move into "Summertime Simplicity," that period in which we promise to have you in and out of church in no more than fifty minutes (air conditioning notwithstanding). This summer, we will also experiment with a "family Sunday," which will consist of an even simpler service geared to the needs of children as well as adults. The first of what we hope may become a tradition will be Sunday, July 18. Mothers and fathers, mark your calendars now!

This summer, there are three feast days that fall on a Sunday, and we will suspend the normal liturgical calendar to observe them: Independence Day on July 4, the feast of St. James on July 25, and the feast of St. Mary the Virgin, on August 15. ✠

## Conversations

On April 18, we held our first "conversation Sunday," in which everyone was invited to share thoughts about various ministry areas. The results were very heartening, with much new enthusiasm. Vestry members are not in charge of these areas, but will help and support new ventures and ideas. Let's keep the energy going! The ministry areas, with the Vestry member appointed to facilitate, are: Fellowship and Formation (Eric Olsen), Finance and Personnel (Grace Oliff, as Senior Warden), Fundraising and Stewardship (Greg Kouletsis), Buildings and Grounds (Brian Demay, as Junior Warden), Worship and Common Life (Ted Guestenhoven), Outreach and Community Involvement (Bob Sarnicki), Communications (Jan Simpson), and Congregational Growth and Vitality (George Keitel). ✠

## A Capital Idea

Since we have addressed the lion's share of deferred maintenance of these old buildings over the past three years, we are now contemplating a series of sessions, to which everyone will be invited and at which we will envision how we would like to see the place improved, beautified, as well as made more accessible and convenient. We are working with a consultant to help shape our "wish list" as well as to develop a means of financing any further capital expenditures. This is an exciting time, so stay tuned for news. ✠

Annual Sunday School Awards  
June 28

All-Parish Picnic  
following the 10 a.m. service  
*Please bring some food to share*

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# A Day in the Life of ...

## Our Priest

What, exactly, does a priest do? It's a really good question, because our work is not like a more typical job with set hours and tasks. Some of you have asked what I do in between Sundays, and so I offer this brief summary by way of reply.

My vocation is grounded in prayer, and every day I pray for you my parishioners, my own needs, and the needs of the world. While this is not generally a time-consuming activity, it is the most important part of my ministry work day. My relationship with our Triune God is very important to me. Some of you may already have received a postcard about this, as it is my habit to pray for two or three parishioners each day. For the past month, I've been sending a card when your day comes up in the rotation.



Next, in a given week I allocate blocks of time for administrative tasks. This is time set aside for meetings, review of the week's activities, and otherwise managing the bulk of administrative functions, including worship planning and preparing the extensive worship bulletins we use. I understand the need of my very part-time staff to have time to get their work done, so I do not encumber them with regular meetings. I am not a fan of "calendar meetings," in which upcoming activities are discussed by the entire staff or Vestry as a committee of the whole. Instead, I encourage each staff member and lay leader to develop goals on an annual basis, and then spend my time with them helping them accomplish these goals.

The rest of my week typically balances between sermon preparation, pastoral visits and calls, committee meetings (including diocesan



responsibilities as a member of Diocesan Council and the bishop's advisory committee on human resources), and sacramental acts. When possible, I profitably spend an afternoon in study, reading, or spiritual direction. A typical week also includes one or two evenings of meetings, programs, or parish

activities. In my experience, it is helpful to schedule less than half of my time, as there are always emergent situations, pastoral crises, and other unexpected circumstances to be addressed. It is also helpful to schedule regular days off (although not always possible to take them).

In addition, my twelve years of ordained ministry have proved that there is also a category of responsibility that reaches beyond the typical seminary-trained role for a priest. This, too, is honest work, and someone has to do it. In my current situation, for the past year I have devoted considerable effort to developing the parish's communications instruments, including this newsletter, signage, and our parish web site. In addition, with the retirement of our chair of Buildings and Grounds, it has fallen to me to supervise this important area until a transition in leadership can be effected. This past year, we created new parish offices, replaced a leaky roof, installed new heat and air conditioning in the parish hall, and created handicapped-accessible and infant-friendly spaces among our church pews. We also needed to address a *lot* of deferred maintenance.

All this adds up to well over the thirty hours I am contracted to work each week—often as much as fifty hours, frequently including even those weeks when I am able to take a few days' respite! This is among the reasons I endeavor to protect my privacy at the Rectory. I love you all and want to be available to you



as best I can. I also *love* to chat, and can easily while away the hours very enjoyably with you—but as a result have accomplished very little. So I need to establish a firm boundary around my private study and residence. You can reach me by e-mail ([rector@annunciationoradell.org](mailto:rector@annunciationoradell.org)) or cellular phone (201-390-8270) if you need me. I enjoy our talks, our theological musings, our times of prayer, and even our more spirited conversations. So let's by all means have more of them! There is *always* time for you, and it is no imposition for me to set aside other tasks to meet with any one you for any reason. I just ask that you give me the courtesy of scheduling such a meeting, so I can be fully attentive and present to you. I am happy to meet in the church office, at your home or office, or at a local coffee house or diner.

*Who's next?* ✕

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## Parishioners' Milestones

*Birthdays:* Jane Sarnicki 1, Dotti Zebrowski 20, Jim Edwards 24, Kayla Garcia 25, Adela Wekselblatt 25.

*Baptisms:* Jamie MacKenzie 3, Anthony Palladino 4, Nick Palladino 9, Conner Olsen 10, David Palladino 27.

*Confirmations:* Christine Dziemian 9, Chic Woehrl 15.

*Wedding Anniversaries:* Doug & Elizabeth Craig 12, Mauro & Cynthia Palladino 13, Chuck & Diane May 28, Ted & Elaine Gustenhoven 30.

Ava Bramson was accepted into Wellesley College, where she will matriculate next fall. ✕

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## Absent Guests

Each week, we take a second collection at the altar steps on that little chair with a basket on it; you pass by on your way to the communion rail. This is the Absent Guest Plate, and in it we collect money to give away to charitable purposes. Last year, we donated nearly four thousand dollars to such causes, which include organizations and causes we regularly support and emergency funding for natural disasters. Each month in *e-News*, we plan to highlight one of the recipients of this collection.

This month, we focus on the ministry known as "North Porch." North Porch is a project of the Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Newark, and serves women of all faiths.

The North Porch Women and Infants' Centers provide emergency seven-day supplies of food, clothing, and other supplies for needy mothers and infants in the Newark, Paterson, Dover, and Clifton areas of northern New Jersey. The name reflects the custom of the ancient church to regard the "north porch" as a refuge and gathering place for women.

North Porch provides assistance only through referrals, which come from a number of social agencies with which they has cooperative agreements as well as from some area churches. North Porch serves nearly 1,100 mothers and their babies each year through the three centers.

Currently the centers provide emergency service, through referral, for women with children between the ages of birth and two years. North Porch dispenses diapers, formula, milk, baby food, toiletries, clothing, and bed linens. The centers provide a

comfortable place for women seeking assistance to bring their children.

Current economic conditions have brought many more indigent mothers to their centers seeking desperately needed baby supplies, and they have seen a considerable slowing down in donations. At Annunciation, we continue to support this good work, not only through donations in the Absent Guest Plate but also through periodic drives for clothing, toys, and supplies. ✕

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## Finance Report

Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer in improving our bookkeeping and accounting, this feature appears regularly in e-News.

As of April 30:	Since Jan.	Annual Budget
Offerings Received	\$29,495	—
Offerings Promised	27,360	91,500
Difference	+1,735	
Total Income	58,299	139,860
Total Expense	85,899	164,627
Difference	-27,600	-24,767
Unrestricted cash on hand:	\$17,039	
Total pledges for 2010:	\$82,000	

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## Special Thanks to...

*Grace Oliff* and *Claire Fry*, who donated the cost of our front doors in honor of their mother, *Carolyn Bensen*.

*Dorothy Govan*, who made a donation in loving memory of her mother, *Santa Edwards*. These funds will be applied to the cost of the new kitchen door, now dedicated in Santa's memory. ✕

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## Vestry Meetings

The Vestry has recently changed its regular meeting time, and now gathers on the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. for normal business. The Executive Committee (consisting of the Rector, Treasurer, and Junior and Senior Wardens) will ordinarily meet on the *second* Tuesday to set the agenda. If you wish to address the Vestry or submit an item of concern, please make your request known to the Rector. All are welcome to attend Vestry meetings, but to be on the agenda, we ask that you request time in advance. ✕

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## A Name to Remember: *Sarnicki*

This month's Profile will be Bob and Jane Sarnicki and their daughter, Sara. The Sarnicki family is one of the newer ones that have joined our Church of the Annunciation congregation, but their presence has been positively felt from the very beginning.

Let me introduce you to the family. Bob qualifies as a true "New Jersey Guy." Bob was born in Elizabeth



on Cinco de Mayo; May 5th, to a nice Polish family. He attended a Roman Catholic parochial school until the eighth grade. He then attended and graduated from Linden High School and then graduated from Kean College.

Jane, on the other hand, is a true-blue New Yorker who knows all the words and can sing *New York, New York* with Frank Sinatra. She was born on Labor Day, September

2nd, to a good solid Jewish family. She grew up in Manhattan and Queens, went to New York City public schools, and graduated from Robert Louis Stevenson High School in New York City. She then attended Montclair State College and Bergen Community College, and graduated from New York University.

Bob became a career United States Postal Service mail carrier. He has delivered the mail on the same route for over twenty years. He most recently worked out of the Linden New Jersey post office, although disability now prevents him from continuing in this vocation.

Jane became a registered nurse and has worked in rehabilitation, medical research, and child psychiatry for the State of New Jersey.

Electronic communication is credited for the romance and marriage of Bob and Jane: they met via computer. Bob sent an E-mail to Jane who put off an answer for six months. When they did meet, their first date was at Van Saun Park and celebrated by having a

"romantic dinner" of pizza delivered to the muddy pavilion. They have been a couple ever since 2000.

Bob and Jane bought their house in New Milford in 2003 after living in River Edge and New Milford, moving at least three times in four years. They have no plans at this time to move from New Milford.

Jane, having lived in River Edge, knew of Annunciation from friends and classmates but only first came to the church when they were invited to attend the baptism of Damien Seitz-Tumalty, Pat Seitz's grandson. Jane and Bob fell in love with the old white building. This was in 2005. It didn't take long after that: on Easter Day 2006, Jane, who was born Jewish, was baptized as was daughter, Sara. Bob, who was born Roman Catholic, was received into the Episcopal Church. Their growing love for Annunciation was solidly cemented when the great Nor'easter of 2007 completely destroyed the first floor of their home. That was when the outpouring of love and support shown by the members of the church let them know that they were in the right place.

Sara, who will be 8 years old on July 22nd, is the love of their life. She shows a talent for art and is an aspiring actress (her parents believe she already is one). She has an ear for music that includes Taylor Swift and the Ramones and she loves anything having to do with cats. Bob and Jane are certain that she will give them as many grey hairs as they their parents but with much joy in between.

In closing, the Postal Service motto "We Deliver for You" comes to mind. With a little modification it fits Bob and Jane perfectly: "They Deliver for Us." Bob is serving as a member of the vestry and sings in our choir. Jane is an accomplished organizer as evidence the great trip Annunciation took to Trinity Church in New York last year. And Jane serves as a Lay Worship Leader.



Bob, Jane, and Sara's presence at Annunciation is well appreciated. ✕

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### The Church of the Annunciation

*A Parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Newark*  
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## Strategic Planning

The Vestry has embarked on a three-part strategic-planning mission this year. The first group is creating a plan for parish downsizing, in the unlikely case that the recent turnaround in membership support does not continue. The other two are more hopeful (and more probable) outcomes: the possibility of sharing ministry or joining with another congregation of the Episcopal Church or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with whom we are in full communion; and planning for the Rector's sabbatical leave, due sometime in 2012. Grace Oliff chairs the downsizing group, Brian Demay the ministry sharing group, and Jan Simpson the sabbatical group. If you have input or questions, please let them know. In the coming months, you will hear reports from all three planning groups. ✕



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## Crossing the Threshold

Our new Center Street and Kitchen doors are now fully and correctly installed, and if you have a key it will open either lock. (If you don't have a key and need one, just speak up—we have copies on hand.)

The new doors are commercial grade, compliant with the fire code, and well insulated—all improvements over their predecessors. The Center Street doors also resemble the original doors in this location (see the architect's rendering in the vesting area on the way to the sacristy).

A few weeks ago, someone opined that the new doors look like those on a hotel. And that is an appropriate image, one quite different from the old doors that looked more like ones a home would have. In a way, the church *is* a hotel: a place that welcomes strangers and offers them hospitality and shelter, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and where everyone acts with decorum and civility. Whoever you are, we thank you for this metaphor.

At the same time, the church is not *exactly* like a hotel—for one thing, we are welcome here regardless of our ability to pay, and without regard to how badly we may have once behaved (kind of like a mother cares for her children). And, as things have turned out, these new doors have been generously donated in memory of one mother and in honor of another—both of them well-known for many years in this congregation.

We thank Dorothy Govan, whose donation will dedicate the kitchen door in memory of her mother, Santa Edwards. And we thank Claire Fry and Grace Oliff, who together have donated the cost of the Center Street doors in honor of their mother, Carolyn Bensen.



We will dedicate both sets of doors at an appropriate time—but for now, as you cross the threshold, I bid you consider how you can help offer hospitality to strangers who come here, as you remember the example and witness of these two great mothers of this parish church. ✕

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## Spaghetti, Anyone?

**Saturday, June 4**

**5:30 to 8 p.m.**

**The best deal in Bergen County!**

Join us for this annual fun fellowship event, this year called a "Roman Holiday." Grace Oliff is once again organizing things, but can use assistance. Plan to bring your family, share a bottle of wine, and enjoy the evening. ✕



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## Farewell, Michael!

Our parish musician, Michael Kooman, has resigned to be able to pursue his other vocation (that of composition for the musical theatre) more completely. For the past two and a half years, Michael has commuted first from Bayonne and more recently from Queens to provide our music leadership. We will miss him, and we wish him well in his every endeavor! ✕



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## Now Searching

We have begun to search in earnest for a new Parish Musician. A Music Advisory Committee has been formed, with Ginny Baird, Elizabeth Craig, and Sue



Keitel agreeing to offer their help to the Rector.

We are expanding the position slightly, to an average of ten or more hours per week. The hope is that our new musician will conduct a regular weekly choir rehearsal, oversee all music programs, and help build our congregation through the ministry of music.

Due to revised income projections, there will be no net budgetary impact this year for this increase in effort, although in subsequent years we are talking about an additional expense of at least \$5,000 annually.

The hope is to have a vibrant, lively music program in place well before the fall. We envision monthly musical offerings by the full choir, hand-bell ringers, children's choir, and perhaps soloists or small groups as well.

A flyer giving details is posted on our web site ([www.annunciationoradell.org/PDF/parish\\_musician\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.annunciationoradell.org/PDF/parish_musician_flyer.pdf)). If you know of any aspiring music students, retired folks or music teachers looking to supplement their income, or anyone else who might be interested in our part-time but very exciting opportunity, please share the information with them.

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## Our Team

We have assembled a list of our reliable, honest contractors and service providers. If you need a plumber, oil-heat service, electrician, carpenter, landscaper, florist, or other service, you might consider checking this list. It is available on our web site (<http://annunciationoradell.org/vendors.html>), and it is posted on the bulletin board in the parish office. ✘

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## Beating the Boundaries

I have a friend who posted this musing on boundary walls on Facebook recently:

Quite often you will hear, or perhaps, you yourself have said, “I feel like I’m butting my head against a stone wall.” Even more frustrating is that we continue to hurl ourselves against such walls in endless futility. What is more tragic, still, is that most of the walls we bang into we erected ourselves. We build most of our own barriers.

The wall of resentment is probably the most common, and perhaps one of the most spiritually deadly. Resentment at its root means to “feel again.” Resentment is our decision to blame someone else for our own misfortune, trouble, problems, failures—in short, for a life which is not satisfactory. We decide that our hurts are due to the wrongs of another inflicted upon us. We either retreat into our own bitterness and isolation, or we project our spiritual darkness on other people, places, or things.

As our wall goes up, our wounds continue to bleed, yet the blood we shed is a corrosive acid, a deadly poison that eats away our own soul. Resentment projected can do much harm to the people around us, but its greatest harm is done to the one who hoards and nurses it.

The antidote to resentment is forgiveness and honesty with ourselves. We must forgive if we are to have anything resembling a life that is satisfying and joyful. We must forgive in order to live. We must build walls of love and affection, and spread that cement which unites us with reconciliation and peace.<sup>1</sup>

My friend seems to have shared some real insight about boundaries. There are boundaries that keep us from harm, and boundaries that keep us dangerously isolated. Boundaries that help our resentments fester, and boundaries that break down our fears. Boundaries that distance us from the truth, and boundaries that spread reconciliation and foster peace. So let us cultivate those positive boundaries, casting away the fear that leads us to erect that *other* kind of barrier. Because the core values of Christianity—things like forgiveness, truth, and love—these compel us not to build walls, but to break them down. ✘

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Adams, *Facebook* post.

